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Claims

1. (currently amended): A process for applying a polymeric label to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface said process comprising:

(a) applying a layer of a hydrophilic solid material comprising at least 30% by dry weight of an animal glue based on the total weight of the hydrophilic solid material to a polymeric label and thereafter drying said layer of hydrophilic material to form a water activatable hydrophilic layer that can be activated into a tacky fastenable adhesive;

b) applying a sufficient amount of ~~water~~, water containing a cross-linking agent, ~~a water based adhesive~~ or a water based adhesive containing a cross-linking agent to said activatable hydrophilic layer to form a tacky fastenable polymeric label;

(c) fastening said tacky fastenable polymeric label to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface; and

(d) curing said polymeric label on said glass, plastic or metal surface or container.

2. (original): A process for applying a polymeric label to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface as defined in claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic solid material is 90 percent by weight animal glue.

3. (original): A process for applying a polymeric label to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface as defined in claim 1 wherein the polymer for the polymeric label is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, polyester, polycarbonate, vinyl, cellophane and compatibilized polymer blends.

4. (canceled)

5. (original): A process for applying a polymeric label to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface as defined in claim 1 wherein step (b) is carried out with the application of a sufficient amount of water containing an effective amount of a crosslinking agent to said activatable layer to form a tacky fastenable polymeric label.

6. (currently amended): A process for applying a polymeric label to a glass, ~~plastic or metal~~ container or surface as defined in claim 1 wherein step (b) is carried out with the application of a sufficient amount of water containing an effective amount of a crosslinking agent to said activatable layer to form a tacky fastenable polymeric label.

7. (canceled)

8. (original): A process for applying a polymeric label to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface as defined in claim 1 wherein step (b) is carried out with the application of a sufficient amount of water based activator containing an effective amount of a cross-linking agent to said activatable layer to form a tacky fastenable polymeric label.

9. (original): A process for applying a polymeric label to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface as defined in claim 1 wherein the total amount of dried hydrophilic material is from 0.02 g to 0.7 g of dried hydrophilic material per sq. cm. of polymer label material.

10. (original): A process for applying a polymeric label to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface as defined in claim 1 where a slip agent is added to said hydrophilic material.

11. (currently amended): A process for making a polymeric label stock for application to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface said process comprising: (a) applying a layer of an hydrophilic solid material comprising at least 30% by dry weight of an animal glue based on the total weight of the hydrophilic solid material by applying a aqueous dispersion comprising animal glue containing a cross-linking agent to a polymeric label stock and thereafter drying said layer of hydrophilic material.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): A process for making a polymeric label stock for application to a glass, plastic or metal container or surface as defined in claim [[12]] 11 wherein said aqueous dispersion of animal glue contains a cross-linking agent and an slip agent.

14. (original): A glass, plastic or metal container which is labeled with a label which is fastened to said container with a cross-linked animal glue.

15. (original): A glass, plastic or metal container which is labeled with a label which is fastened to said container with a cross-linked animal glue that is applied by rewetting a label which is treated with a water activatable animal glue.

16. (original): A composition for forming an activatable hydrophillic layer on a surface of label stock, said composition comprising:
animal glue 30-95 wt %;
synthetic and/or natural polymer additive 5-65 wt %;
cross-linker 0-5 wt %;
humectant 0-15 wt %;
wetting agent 0-1 wt %;